

# Public Document Pack



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**CABINET**

**Tuesday, 26th March, 2019**

## **S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A C K**

<b>1.</b>	<b>SCHOOLS SERVICE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME 2019-2020</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language.

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## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

## CABINET EXECUTIVE

26<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander Portfolio Holder for Education

**SUBJECT:** Schools Service Major Improvements Programme 2019-2020

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Summary**

1.1 This report presents the Schools Service's Major Improvement Programme for 2019/20. The purpose of this Programme is to carry out a range of improvements and refurbishments to schools and pre-school settings to ensure that facilities are fit-for-purpose. The allocated budget for 2019/20 is £2m, and it is expected that the budget will reduce to £1m in the following years.

1.2 The report is supported by the following appendix:  
**Appendix A** - Major Improvements Programme 2019-2020.

**2. Proposal**

2.1 Cabinet approved a five year Programme last year - however this report will focus on the annual programme for financial year 2019/2020 given the current pressures on funding. The previous Programme provided schools with an indication as to when the authority will be in a position to carry out projects which are required on their buildings and premises. This list of projects will be maintained and reviewed on an annual basis.

2.2 The Programme is for financial year 2019-20. Proposals for future financial years 2020-2021 onwards have been ranked and these are still provisional and will be subject to amendment/addition depending on changes in circumstances, priorities and available budgets. The Programme is also subject to the outcome and decisions around School Transformation and 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools proposals that emerge over the period of the programme.

2.3 The Programme for 2019-2020 is based on a clear prioritisation methodology – the criteria is outlined in the Schools Asset Management Plan 2018 and set out in Cabinet report C48-2015. The methodology considers the following key categories and factors:

- Condition;
- Sufficiency;
- Suitability;

- Sustainability;
- Health & Safety issues including:
  - Legislative compliance;
  - Environmental Health issues (kitchen environmental health reports);
  - DDA compliance;
  - Property safeguarding issues.
- Consideration is also given to whether a school is part of a current or future strategic school reorganisation development.

2.4 Proposals for future financial years have also been ranked but these are provisional and will be subject to amendment/addition depending on changes in circumstances, priorities and available budgets. The programme is also subject to the outcome and decisions around School Transformation/21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme proposals.

2.5 A sum of £85,474 has been retained at this stage in financial year 2019/20 as a contingency to cover for emergencies, unforeseeable and legislative requirements, budget fluctuations and improvement works required to accommodate the RE-FIT programme for energy improvements.

2.6 There are project savings of £94,455 in financial year 2018/19 which are highlighted in green fill within Appendix A. It is recommended these savings are approved and rolled forwards from financial year 2018/19 and into 2019/20 as part projects in financial year 2019/20 and Appendix A. Those projects highlighted in amber fill are project budgets already approved in financial year 2018-2019.

2.7 In developing the Programme, consideration has been given to the level of investment made directly to schools through their individual delegated repairs and maintenance budget, compared to the funds delegated for repairs and maintenance (C38-2017) - Cabinet has previously approved the following comparison process):

- any school whose expenditure on repairs and maintenance is less than 80% of the delegated budget for repairs and maintenance over a 5 year period is required to make a contribution to the total cost of any capital works included in any major capital works programme. The level of a school contribution is set at the difference between actual expenditure on repairs and maintenance and 80% of the repairs and maintenance delegated budget over a 5 year period.

2.8 The Major Improvement Programme is delivered alongside the Refit Programme, which has been developed in conjunction with the Corporate Property Energy Officer and the REFIT programme as referenced in C239-2015.

2.9 The authority is working with the chosen contractor to finalise and validate the Investment Grade proposals for each of the sites which will inform the viability of the business case to deliver energy efficiency works in selected county offices and schools.

2.10 Viable projects will require a justifiable and affordable payback period through the REFIT scheme. The Schools Service, schools finance team and individual schools will approve the projects and it is proposed these proposals will be presented by the Corporate Energy Officer in a separate report to the Cabinet.

2.11 The types of energy efficiency improvement work included to schools are installation of LED lighting to rooms, insulation of boiler system pipework, Building Management System and boiler controls, zone controls to radiators, solar PV and domestic hot water heaters. All Project Management consultancy fees for managing the project have been included in the business case and within this report an allowance has been made within the overall programme contingency for consequential alterations to accommodate the energy improvement works.

2.12 Subject to approval of business cases, the schools included are:

- Crickhowell CP School
- Crickhowell High School
- Knighton C in W School
- Llanidloes C.P. School
- Llanidloes High School
- Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School
- Llanfyllin High School
- Newtown High School
- Newtown High School - John Beddoes Campus
- Penygloddfa CP School
- Presteigne C.P. School
- Rhayader C in W School
- Welshpool High School
- Ysgol Calon Cymru (Builth Wells & Llandrindod Wells sites)
- Ysgol Rhiw Bechan
- Ysgol Bannau

2.13 It is anticipated that the first tranche of work if approved by the authority, will be undertaken and completed during financial year 2019-2020.

2.13 The proposals being funded in the Major Improvements Programme for financial year 2019-2020 and future financial years may in some instances overlap with the RE: FIT programme and it is proposed that a further report is brought to the Cabinet when appropriate to approve any changes to the programme in Appendix A.

2.14 From time to time, the Welsh Government releases capital funding to support various policies and initiatives – the authority will ensure that these opportunities are maximised where appropriate. These grants are usually one-off or short-term opportunities and the authority has to respond accordingly.

2.15 There is a pressing need for investment in IT equipment in schools and establishment of a refreshed programme to ensure compliance of the schools estate with the Digital Competency Framework and compliance work. The Council's EMT has approved the funding of £400,000 from this capital programme to provide ICT in primary and special schools in Powys with basic ICT support for desktop, networks, servers, WIFI access points and the PSBA service over the last 6 years.

Each school requires devices that meet a minimum standard to ensure that learners can access digital skill development opportunities.

Investment is needed in each school's infrastructure to ensure that there are no recurring costs for the Schools Service and Local Authority. When the equipment is purchased, as part of a separate Service Level Agreement, schools will be able to plan for future investment as part of a refresh programme in their equipment alongside having a quality support system for their infrastructure.

### **3. Options Considered/Available**

3.1 The authority is required to ensure its schools' estate is fit for purpose, therefore no other options are available.

### **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

4.1 The authority is required to ensure its schools' estate is fit for purpose, therefore approval of the Major Improvement Programme for 2019/20 will enable the authority to improve the schools' estate.

### **6. Impact Assessment**

6.1 An impact assessment is not required as there is no change of objective of budget saving.

### **7. Corporate Improvement Plan**

7.1 Improving the schools infrastructure is a key priority within Vision 2025.

### **10. Local Member(s)**

n/a

## **11. Other Front Line Services**

- 11.1 The recommendation does not impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council.

## **12. Corporate Communications**

- 12.1 Communications comment: The report is of public interest and requires use of proactive news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision.

## **13. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

- 13.1 Finance comments, The Capital and Financial Planning Accountant confirms that the Capital Programme includes a budget of £2m for 2019/20 Major Improvements.
- 13.2 Legal comments: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view
- 13.3 Corporate Property comments, “We were very encouraged to read that school services were looking at the actual repair and maintenance spend compared to the schools repairs and maintenance budget and taking action where the spend is under 80% over a 5 year period. This supports our belief that repair and maintenance budgets need to be utilised effectively for the given purpose to ensure that our assets are well maintained. We currently provide support to school services and will continue to do in the future”.
- 13.4 Catering Services comments had no comments to add to this report.
- 13.5 HR, no comments have been received.

## **14. Scrutiny**

The report has been scrutinised on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **15. Statutory Officers**

- 15.1 The Head of Finance (S151 Officer) notes the comments of the Capital and Financial Planning Accountant.
- 15.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) will provide comments at the meeting.

## 16. Members' Interests

16.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>1. That the Major Improvements Programme for financial year 2019-2020 as set out in Appendix A be approved.</p> <p>2. That the Portfolio holder for education in consultation with the Head of Learning has delegated authority to make changes to the Major Improvements Programme that are within budget and in accordance with Capital Budget virement rules for approval.</p> <p>3. That project underspends of £94,455 in financial year 2018-2019 highlighted in green fill within Appendix A, are approved and rolled forwards from financial year 2018-2019 and into 2019-2020.</p>	<p>To progress the School Transformation Programme and meet Welsh Government fit for purpose objectives</p>

Relevant Policy (ies):	School Modernisation and Schools Asset Management Plan		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Not applicable
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	David Thompson and Schools Capital & Revenue Programme Officers group	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	From 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 onwards	

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Email:
David Thompson	01597 826543	david.thompson1@powys.gov.uk

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

9th October 2018 – Schools Asset Management Plan

C48-2015: Schools Service Major Improvements Programme scoring and prioritisation criteria

C239-2015 RE: FIT programme

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SCHOOLS SERVICE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - BUILDING AND SITE PRIORITIES								
							APPENDIX A	
Status: FINAL FOR APPROVAL								
Last updated: 26th February 2019								
SCHOOL NAME	Category	Funding Source	PROPOSED PROJECT SCOPE	Approved funding 2018/19 and in previous years	2019/20	Total Estimated Value of Works £	Health & Safety/ Condition grading/ Sufficiency/ Suitability	Overall Project Score
YSGOL TREFONNEN	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	Reconstruct the car park steps and handrail due to ground movement		£ 10,000	£ 10,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, non-teaching spaces	125
PENYGLODDFA C.P.	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	Dangerous structure - New replacement retaining school boundary wall	£ 15,000	£ 16,000	£ 31,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces	115
YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Replacement of window lintols and adjacent guttering and RW goods. New suspended ceiling and lighting to replace deflected ceiling boards in teaching rooms A013/A015 and A005/A007.		£ 76,000	£ 76,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces	115
BUTTINGTON/TREWERN C.P.	Building adaptations & additional accommodation	CAPITAL	Permanently encase 8No. asbestos pillars around the outside of the main school (Block A)		£ 10,000	£ 10,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces	110
VARIOUS SCHOOLS	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Radon improvement works to meet statutory requirements		£ 25,000	£ 25,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1C & unsuitable teaching spaces	108
YSGOL CALON CYMRU (BUILTH WELLS SITE)	DDA & SEN adaptations	CAPITAL	DDA works to accommodate a pupil needs in Sept 2019 to improve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Hall access</li> <li>• Upgrade Disabled toilet facilities</li> <li>• Internal and external access doors (main school buildings)</li> <li>• Upgrade and reconfigure DDA toilet facilities</li> </ul>		£ 244,000	£ 244,000	Health & Safety risk, DDA Condition grading 2C & unsuitable teaching area	103
LLANGATTOCK (Aided) School	Building adaptations & additional accommodation	CAPITAL	New extension and alteration to resolve unsuitable teaching areas, toilets and to provide Early Years accommodation by Sept 2018: Design, Tender and Construction £618,226 in 2018/19 and £43,000 in 2019/20 Foundation Phase new external hard play area below covered play areas and extend infants playground £64,000 in 2019/20	£ 618,226	£ 107,000	£ 725,226	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 2C, insufficient and unsuitable teaching and non-teaching space & reduced CO2 emissions	99
YSGOL CALON CYMRU (BUILTH WELLS SITE)	DDA & SEN adaptations	CAPITAL	New DDA passenger/goods lift servicing kitchen on the 1st floor (Block E) and DDA alterations	£ 45,800	£ 154,200	£ 200,000	Health & Safety, Condition 1D, DDA, unsuitable teaching and kitchen facilities	95
LLANFYLLIN H.S.	DDA & SEN adaptations	CAPITAL	New DDA and safeguarding reception reconfiguration and improvements		£ 56,250	£ 56,250	Health & Safety risk, DDA Condition grading 1D and Safeguarding & Security	95
LLANGYNIDR C.P.	DDA & SEN adaptations	CAPITAL	DDA works including refurbishment of infant toilets (reference A021), new contrasting internal/external steps, new external handrails and fencing to accommodate a pupils needs		£ 45,000	£ 45,000	Health & Safety, DDA, Condition 1D, unsuitable non-teaching spaces, and reduction of CO2	95
YSGOL MAESYDDERWEN	DDA & SEN adaptations	CAPITAL	DDA works to provide maglocks to internal doors to meet a pupils needs		£ 56,000	£ 56,000	Health & Safety, DDA and unsuitable non-teaching spaces	95
WELSHPOOL H.S.	External works and school sports and playground facilities	CAPITAL	Realignment and partial renewal of the storm drain adjacent to the ATP to prevent flooding	£ 10,000	£ 15,000	£ 25,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D & unsuitable teaching areas	95

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SCHOOL NAME	Category	Funding Source	PROPOSED PROJECT SCOPE	Approved funding 2018/19 and in previous years	2019/20	Total Estimated Value of Works £	Health & Safety/ Condition grading/ Sufficiency/ Suitability	Overall Project Score
CRICKHOWELL C.P.	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	New safeguarding boundary fencing and gates to separate visitor entrance		£ 10,000	£ 10,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition 2C, unsuitable non-teaching space & Safeguarding/Security	83
LLANGYNIDR C.P.	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	Safeguarding - New safeguarding boundary fencing and gates		£ 24,200	£ 24,200	Health & Safety risk, Condition 2C, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching space & Safeguarding/Security	83
CROSSGATES C.P.	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Replacement of leaking roof coverings, insulation, fascia's, soffits, roof lights and RW goods including internal remedial works to Early Years mobile		£ 35,000	£ 35,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces & reduced CO2 emissions	81
LLANFYLLIN H.S.	External works and school sports and playground facilities	CAPITAL	Phased - New safeguarding and security fencing and gates Phase 1 Front boundary £50,000 in 2019/20 Phase 2 Rear boundary £120,000 in 2020/21		£ 50,000	£ 50,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching space & Safeguarding/Security	80
YSGOL LLANBRYNMAIR C.P.	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	Safeguarding - New boundary fencing and lockable access gates to rear of the school	£ 10,000	£ 35,000	£ 45,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching space & Safeguarding/Security	80
LLANFYLLIN H.S.	Primary Energy source, Environmental & Services distribution systems	CAPITAL	Phased replacement and new boiler controls and re-wire 4 x boiler houses linking main school boilers Phase 1 New BMS controls 1 x boiler house £28,000 in 2018/19 Phase 2 New BMS controls 1 x boiler house £28,000 in 2019/20 Phase 3 New BMS controls 2 x boiler houses including drama block £35,000 in 2020/21  Replacement boilers including all associated works £125,000 in future years	£ 28,000	£ 28,000	£ 56,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces & reduced CO2 emissions	79
ST MICHAELS V.A.	Primary Energy source, Environmental & Services distribution systems	CAPITAL	Replacement of oil fired boilers with LPG boilers x 3No. including new LPG tank, BMS controls, alterations to DHW and asbestos removal to main school (Block A)		£ 82,877	£ 82,877	Health & Safety, Condition 1D, unsuitable teaching facilities and reduction in CO2 emissions	79
LLANDYSILIO C in W	Primary Energy source, Environmental & Services distribution systems	CAPITAL	New replacement boiler, BMS controls and asbestos removal to main school (Block A) Phase 1 New controls £12,000 in 2018/19 Phase 2 New boiler and associated works £52,500 in 2019/20	£ 12,000	£ 52,500	£ 64,500	Health & Safety, Condition 1D, unsuitable teaching facilities and reduction in CO2 emissions	79
VARIOUS SCHOOLS	Primary Energy source, Environmental & Services distribution systems	CAPITAL	Upgrade of boiler control and BMS systems	£ 10,000	£ 40,000	£ 50,000	Health & Safety risk, Environmental controls, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces	76
LLANFAIR CAERINION C.P.	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	Partial replacement of school pedestrian pathway and handrails to steps leading to trunk road from the school.		£ 25,000	£ 25,000	Health & Safety, Condition 1D and unsuitable non-teaching areas	75
RHAYADER C in W	Building adaptations & additional accommodation	CAPITAL	Dangerous structure - Replacement of the existing leaking roof and rebuild dormer window to the former stable building housing the incoming electrical mains supply		£ 52,500	£ 52,500	Health & Safety risk, Environmental controls and Condition grading 1D	75
LLANRAEADR YM MOCHNANT	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	New safeguarding and security fencing to North East boundary		£ 14,300	£ 14,300	Health & Safety risk, Condition 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching space & Safeguarding/Security	75
RHAYADER C in W	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	New safeguarding and security fencing/pedestrian gate access to Foundation phase and habitat and wooded area		£ 30,000	£ 30,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching space & Safeguarding/Security	75

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RADNOR VALLEY C.P.	Primary Energy source, Environmental & Services distribution systems	CAPITAL	New electrical distribution to replace part of the pyro wiring to main school lighting		£ 26,000	£ 26,000	Health & Safety risk, Environmental controls, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces	75
ABERMULE C.P.	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	Safeguarding - New boundary/security fencing with the Old School House boundary	£ 13,750	£ 8,750	£ 22,500	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable non-teaching areas & Safeguarding and Security	75
FRANKSBRIDGE C.P.	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Refurbishment of roof covering fascia's, soffits, RW goods and kitchen extract system, block A (kitchen & main school): Phase 1 - Refurbish kitchen flat roof and associated works £35,000 in 2019/20 Phase 2 Refurbish main school flat roof and associated works £TBC in future years	£ 10,000	£ 17,500	£ 27,500	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces & reduced CO2 emissions	69
MONTGOMERY C IN W	DDA & SEN adaptations	CAPITAL	Phased replacement flat roof over main school (Block A) and refurbishment of boys toilets A014b to meet pupils needs: Phase 1 £35,000 in 2019/20 Phase 2 £75,000 in 2020/21		£ 35,000	£ 110,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces & reduced CO2 emissions	69
PENYGLODDFA C.P.	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Phase 2 - Replacement flat roof over teaching base (Block B) including internal structural roof remedial works and internal making good to toilet room B03		£ 50,000	£ 50,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces & reduced CO2 emissions	69
YSGOL TREFONNEN	Primary Energy source, Environmental & Services distribution systems	CAPITAL	Alterations to install additional plenum to separate kitchen ventilation and biomass boiler wood store		£ 25,000	£ 25,000	Health & Safety risk, Environmental controls, Condition grading 1D and unsuitable non-teaching spaces	68
ST MICHAELS V.A.	External Access & Fencing (paths, roads, parking etc.)	CAPITAL	Contribution towards the replacement of safeguarding fencing (main school) - PCC contribution as part of WG VA Capital grant	£ 25,705	£ 22,863	£ 48,568	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D and Safeguarding & Security	66
ST MICHAELS V.A.	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Pitched and flat roof refurbishment works including roof lights, coverings, fascia's, soffits and RW goods blocks A (main school) - PCC contribution as part of WG VA Capital grant		£ 16,038	£ 16,038	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces	66
YSGOL UWCHRADD CAEREINION	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Replacement of external fire exit doors (main school)	£ 27,000	£ 13,000	£ 40,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces & reduced CO2 emissions	66
VARIOUS SCHOOLS	Primary Energy source, Environmental & Services distribution systems	CAPITAL	New ICT equipment to implement digital curriculum in schools		£ 400,000	£ 400,000	Condition 1D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces	65

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SCHOOL NAME	Category	Funding Source	PROPOSED PROJECT SCOPE	Approved funding 2018/19 and in previous years	2019/20	Total Estimated Value of Works £	Health & Safety/ Condition grading/ Sufficiency/ Suitability	Overall Project Score
GUILDSFIELD C.P.	Building fabric (Roofs, windows etc.)	CAPITAL	Replacement external windows and doors blocks A, B and D (main school) including new window blinds: Phase 1 Replacement of external door block A £10,000 in 2019/20 Phase 2 Classbases and corridors blocks A and B and D £50,000 in future years		£ 10,000	£ 10,000	Health & Safety risk, Condition grading 2D, unsuitable teaching and non-teaching spaces & reduced CO2 emissions	64
			<b>PROGRAMME CONTINGENCY</b>		£ 85,474			
			<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROGRAMME</b>	£ 825,481	£ 2,003,452	£ 2,828,933		
			<b>TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION</b> Additional secured funding contributions: 1. St. Michaels (VA) CRAMPS Capital funding £15,705-45 towards new safeguarding boundary fencing in 2018/19 2. St. Michaels (VA) CRAMPS Capital funding £3,451-95 towards the upgrade of the boilers and conversion to LPG fuel in 2019/20 3. Project savings of £94,455 carried forward from financial year 2018/19 to 2019/20	£ 825,481	£ 2,003,452	£ 2,828,933		



## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on the Schools Major Improvements Programme 2019 - 2020

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and considered the following documents:

- Schools Service Major Improvements Programme 2019 - 2020

The Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holders for Education and Finance, the Head of Schools Services and the Schools Capital and Property Manager for attending scrutiny.

#### Observations:

Scrutiny welcome the opportunity to undertake pre-Cabinet scrutiny of the Schools Major Improvements Programme and note the allocation of £2million for capital improvements for the year 2019/20.

It is noted that the programme covers a range of improvements, refurbishments, DDA, Early Years and upgrading works. It was also noted that the programme may be amended to take into account in year urgent health and safety works that are needed. The links with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme was explored and it was confirmed that schools who are due to receive feasibility studies under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme would not be included for improvements under the School Improvement Programme.

Concern was expressed regarding the intention to reduce the funding in the Major Improvements programme in future years. It is acknowledged that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme will result in the replacement of those schools in the worst condition with an overall improvement in the school estate.

A capital programme needs to invest sufficient funds to ensure that schools are appropriately maintained and do not deteriorate to the extent that significant investment is required. Research is suggested to ascertain what an appropriate level of investment would be to ensure good maintenance of the school's estate. This can then be assessed against what the authority can afford in this regard. Aligned to this is a question of how many school sites the authority can afford to support. At present there are 84 primary school sites, 13 high school sites and 3 special school sites\*. Proposals are progressing to close one of two primary schools (Ysgol Banw or Ysgol Llanerfyl) and close four primary schools in Welshpool and open two new primary schools. This would reduce the number of primary school sites to 81. The Portfolio Holder also indicated an intention to modernise primary provision in the Newtown area with the potential to reduce five primary school sites to two.

A previous recommendation from scrutiny on Fair Funding stated:

***That Cabinet demonstrate that small schools are not receiving a disproportionate amount of funding to the detriment of medium and large schools***

and this recommendation also applies to the distribution of the additional capital funds for distribution across the school estate.

It is noted that works undertaken for DDA requirements fall under this programme and the works undertaken have the benefit not only of allowing a young person to access education in their local community but that the alterations made remain and the school can continue to offer a higher level of accessibility. The planned reduction of capital funding for Schools Major Improvements may put at risk the ability of the authority to respond to DDA requirements or provide sufficient funds for repairs and maintenance. It is essential that neither of these areas of funding should be put at risk and scrutiny may wish to review this in their end of year report.

Scrutiny noted that a capital grant for feminine hygiene and toilet facilities of £32,226 had been allocated to one school. It was confirmed that only one scheme relating to toilets had fallen within the programme under the scoring system and therefore the funds had been allocated to this scheme. Scrutiny query how it is intended to ensure all schools have access to 'improved toilet facilities and feminine hygiene hardware in schools'.

Scrutiny noted that the restriction those schools who had subscribed to the Property Plus scheme run by HoWPS had experienced a full year of 'emergency only' service. This had limited their ability to undertake regular maintenance and scrutiny seek assurance that the maintenance backlog which had built up during this period has been addressed and is not contributing to larger problems in the future.

Scrutiny are concerned that this issue first highlighted in a scrutiny report relating to the performance review of the first year of the operation of HoWPS if repeated on a regular basis may lead to a reduction in the life expectancy of the school estate.

Scrutiny welcome the work that is being undertaken to assess the requirements for bringing all schools up to standard as part of the Schools Asset Management Plan. Scrutiny recognise that until this work is completed it is not possible to quantify the financial risk to the authority inherent with bringing the schools up to date of a position of full maintenance. We look forward to sight of this information in line with the recommendations that were made when this plan was scrutinised.

Recommendations:

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1. That a review of the level of expenditure in the capital programme and how it relates to the viability of schools is undertaken to ensure that scarce funding is not wasted			

<p><b>2. That scrutiny monitor the ratio of DDA capital expenditure as a proportion of the capital budget and advise of any risk this expenditure may have on the wider capital programme</b></p>			
<p><b>3. That the service work with HoWPS to ensure that an appropriate level of routine maintenance and repairs are undertaken at all times.</b></p>			
<p><b>4. That scrutiny are provided with the completed Schools Asset Management Plan to include the financial costs of bringing each school including its grounds up to a position of full maintenance</b></p>			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan as soon as possible, but at the latest, within 2 months of the date of the meeting i.e. by 06.05.19.

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee present on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019:

County Councillors: P Roberts (Chair), G Breeze, B Davies, S C Davies, K Laurie-Parry, L Roberts, E Roderick and G Thomas  
Parent Governor Representatives: A Davies, S Davies and G Robson  
Church Representative: M Evitts

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